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COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS
Seventeenth session
10-19 April 1991
Agenda item 14

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS SEVENTEENTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Andrew G. BANGALI (Sierra Leone)

Chapter ___

PROVISIONAL AGENDAS FOR THE EIGHTEENTH AND NINETEENTH SESSIONS

1. The Commission considered item 13 of its agenda at its 13th meeting, on 18 April 1991. It had before it an informal note by the Bureau containing the draft provisional agendas for the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions, together with an indicative list of requested documentation.

2. The Chairman of the Commission opened the discussion and stated that the Bureau had considered ways to allow more in-depth consideration of items on the Commission's annual agenda without sacrificing the scope of the Commission's work and had agreed that that could be done through the biennialization of selected items. Accordingly, the Bureau, with the assistance of the Executive Director of the Centre, had prepared provisional agendas for the next two sessions of the Commission.

3. The Executive Director of the Centre elaborated on the proposals made by the Bureau and indicated that biennialization would not affect the Centre's work, which would continue on all items and would be reported upon annually to the Commission in the report of the Secretary-General on activities of the Centre. In taking up that report, the Commission could make recommendations on all pertinent matters.

4. Delegations welcomed the proposals and noted that biennialization would permit the Commission to take up new items without straining its capacity to consider existing items. In that context, future topics were suggested, including human resource development. It was also noted that environment might be a special item warranting consideration at both the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions in order to prepare for, and follow-up on, the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in 1992.

5. Clarification was sought on the need for item 8 of the provisional agenda for the eighteenth session, which referred to the provisional agenda of the nineteenth session, in the light of the proposal to decide upon the contents of both provisional agendas at the current session.

6. In response to the issues raised in the discussion, the Executive Director stated that environment provided a good illustration of the distinction between in-depth discussion of the type sought by including separate items on the provisional agenda and ad hoc discussion under the catch-all item on the activities of the Centre. Thus, the Commission could be expected to have an in-depth discussion on environment at its eighteenth session to finalize its contribution to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and also an ad hoc discussion on environment at its nineteenth session on any new directions to be provided to the activities of the Centre in follow-up to the Conference. He also clarified that item 8 of the provisional agenda on the eighteenth session should be seen as providing an opportunity to fine-tune the provisional agenda for the nineteenth session on the basis of the biennial format agreed upon at the present session.

Action taken by the Commission

7. The Commission adopted the draft provisional agendas for the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions as proposed by the Bureau. The Commission also requested that the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Centre be exempted from the standard page-limit set for documentation, in order to allow for comprehensive annual reporting on all pertinent activities.